NOTE VIII.

REPORT ON A SMALL COLLECTION OF BIRDS FROM MERAUKE, SOUTHERN NEW GUINEA

BY

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Some time ago Dr. J. C. Koningsberger of Buitenzorg forwarded me for determination a part of the collection of birdskins made by the Dutch detachment of exploration in the neighbourhood of Merauke between June 1907 and March 1908. The skins are not dated, but only sexed; the collection contains however interesting specimens. I give here, in addition to my paper in Nova Guinea, Vol, IX, p. 51, a list of the examples, which are in my hands. I am very sorry, that they form only the smaller half of the collection, the larger part is still in the Buitenzorg Museum and most unfortunately the skins have already been stuffed, though they have not been determined by a competent person. Dr. L. F. de Beaufort, when being at Buitenzorg in November 1909, has seen the birds and could give me only the sad informations, that the birds already are stuffed and that a good deal of them are unlabelled. He had no time to determine the birds and consequently, to send me a list of the specimens, but that among these examples are also interesting ones can be concluded from his statement, that the collection contains also two cranes. A crane is as yet not known from New Guinea; probably it will be *Grus australasiana* Gould.

The collection, which I have here in Leyden, contains 29 specimens, belonging to 19 forms, one of which, *Oriolus sagittata magnirostris*, is new to science.

Dupetor flavicollis gouldi (Bonaparte).

Cf. Van Oort, Nova Guinea, IX, livr. 1, 1909, p. 54.

One female.

Ieracidea berigora novaeguineae A. B. Meyer.

Hieracidea novaeguineae A. B. Meyer, Journ. f. Orn. 1894, p. 89.

One unsexed specimen.

This example, an adult one, is almost uniformly brown above and below; the feathers of the upper surface have very indistinct rufous edgings; those of the crown have distinct black shaftstripes, which are also indicated on the feathers of the nape, back, scapulars and breast. The outer webs of the primaries are unspotted, only very small indistinct spots are to be seen on the outer web of the seventh primary in the right wing and on that of the eighth one in the left wing. The tail is almost unbanded, only near the base of the tailfeathers there are a few spots of light rufous at the upper surface; the basal half of the under surface of the tail is indistinctly banded. As to the lack of bands and spots on the tail, this specimen seems to differ from the type-specimens of Dr. A. B. Meyer from German New Guinea. Also the tarso-metatarsus is longer than in the specimens from German New Guinea and equals that of examples of *berigora* and of *orientalis*. When further material proves that these features are constant, then the specimens from southern New Guinea must be separated. Wing 340, tail 205, culmen 22, tarso-met. 68 mm.

Astur torquatus (Temminck).

Falco torquatus Temminck, Pl. col. 43, 93, 1823. (Ex Cuvier).
Astur torquatus, Sharpe, Cat. B. Br. M. I, 1874, p. 125.
Urospizias torquatus, Salvadori, Orn. Pap. I, 1880, p. 60.

One male.

Wing 220 mm. This example agrees perfectly with a specimen from Cape York in the collection of the Leyden Museum. Its under surface is somewhat paler than in our specimens from Timor and from Samao near Timor, collected by S. Müller.

Ptilinopus coronulatus G. R. Gray.

Cf. Van Oort, l. c. p. 65.

Three specimens.

Ptilinopus aurantiifrons G. R. Gray.

Cf. Van Oort, l. c. p. 65.

One specimen.

Eclectus pectoralis (P. L. S. Müller).

Cf. Van Oort, l. c. p. 71.

One male.

Ptistes erythropterus coccineopterus Gould.

Ptistes coccineopterus Gould, Handb. B. Austr. II, 1865, p. 39.
Ptistes erythropterus, Salvadori, Cat. B. Br. M. XX, 1891, p. 481 (partim).

One female.

This example belongs to the smaller western form of *Ptistes erythropterus* (Gmelin). Wing 185, tail 142, culmen 18 mm. This form has not been recorded from New Guinea.

Chalcopsitta scintillatus (Temminck).

Cf. Van Oort, l. c. p. 73.

One specimen.

The under wingcoverts are red.

Ninox connivens assimilis Salvadori & D'Albertis.

Ninox assimilis Salvadori & D'Albertis, Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, VII, 1875, p. 809. — Salvadori, Orn. Pap. I, 1880, p. 81.
Ninox connivens assimilis, Rothschild & Hartert, Nov. Zool. XIV, 1907, p. 445.

One male.

Wing 262 mm. This bird much resembles *Ninox con-*

nivens rufostrigata (Gray) from Halmahera; it is however smaller and its upper surface is a trifle paler.

Caprimulgus macrurus Horsfield.

Cf. Van Oort, l. c. p. 81.

One example.

Arses telescophthalmus harterti Van Oort.

Cf. Van Oort, l. c. p. 86.

One female.

This specimen agrees with the type-specimens from the Noord River. Wing 80 mm.

Graucalus melanops (Latham).

Cf. Van Oort, l. c. p. 87.

Three specimens.

Edolisoma schisticeps poliopse Sharpe.

Cf. Van Oort, l. c. p. 88.

One male.

As the specimens from the Noord River belong to this subspecies, the examples from Merauke surely will belong to this form.

Cracticus quoyi (Lesson).

Cf. Van Oort, l. c. p. 93.

Three specimens, adult ♂ and ♀, and young ♂.

Pitohui ferrugineus (Bonaparte).

Cf. Van Oort, l. c. p. 94.

One female.

Philemon novae-guineae (S. Müller).

Cf. Van Oort, l. c. p. 98.

One female.

Oriolus flavocinctus (King).

Mimetes flavocinctus King, Survey intertrop. Coasts Australia, II, 182?, p. 419.

Oriolus flavicinctus, Schlegel, Mus. Pays-Bas, Cat. Coraces, 1867, p. 110. — Sharpe, Cat. B. Br. M. III, 1877, p. 206.

Mimeta flavocincta, Salvadori, Orn. Pap. II, 1881, p. 471.
Oriolus flavocinctus mülleri, Rothschild & Hartert, Nov. Zool. X, 1903, p. 111.

Four specimens.

Examples from the Aroe Islands and from New Guinea agree perfectly with specimens from Australia. The type-specimen of *Mimeta mülleri* Bonaparte, Consp. Av. I, 1850, p. 346, is a female, collected by S. Müller in 1828 at the Straits of Princess Marianne (at that time named the Dourga River); it does not differ in any respect from specimens of *O. flavocinctus* from Australia.

Oriolus sagittata magnirostris nov. subsp.

[*Coracias sagittata* Latham, Suppl. Ind. Orn. 1801, p. XXVI.]

A young male.

This example, which apparently belongs to a new subspecies, is similar to young specimens of *Oriolus sagittata* (Latham) = *Oriolus viridis* (Latham), cf. Robinson and Laverock; Ibis, 1900, p. 625, but differs by its conspicuously heavier and longer bill, 35 mm., whereas the maximum length in *sagittata* is 31 mm. and the bill in this latter form is more slender. The upper surface is a little paler than in specimens from Australia. Length of wing 147 mm., thus longer than in the so-called *Oriolus affinis* Gould.

Dicrurus bracteatus Gould.

Dicrurus bracteatus Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1842, p. 132.
Chibia bracteata, Sharpe, Cat. B. Br. M. III, 1877, p. 236.
Dicruropsis bracteata, Salvadori, Orn. Pap. II, 1881, p. 174.

A male and a female.

These specimens have a green lustre in the glossy parts of the plumage. Wing of male 158, of female 149 mm.

Leyden Museum, January 1910.